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## Acting CIA skipper boasts expertise on Soviet Union

WASHINGTON [AP]—Robert M. Gates, selected Monday to become the director of the Central Intelligence Agency, is a career intelligence official who is an expert on the Soviet Union.

Gates, 43, was named deputy director of the CIA last summer, and has been acting director during the illness of William J. Casey, whose resignation was announced Monday.

As deputy director, Gates has also served as chairman of the National Intelligence Council, directing the preparation of national intelligence estimates put together in cooperation with the various national security agencies.

Although Gates first joined the CIA in 1966, his service at that agency was interrupted for six years when he served on the staff of the National Security Council from 1974 to 1980, under Presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter.

Gates, who holds a doctorate in Soviet history from Georgetown University in Washington, became the CIA's intelligence officer for Soviet affairs for two years after returning to the agency.

He then was named deputy director for intelligence, in charge of analytical studies.

During his first years at the CIA, Gates served as a specialist in strategic arms limitation issues, advising officials during the negotiations of the 1970s.

A native of Kansas, he is married and has two children.

Sen. Patrick Leahy [D., Vt.] characterized the new director as "an extremely professional member of our intelligence community," during Gates' confirmation hearings as deputy director last year.

During those hearings, Gates defended the agency's use of covert activities and vowed to work to curtail leaks of information to the news media.

Gates said covert action is "an appropriate instrument of foreign policy, as long as it is taken within a broader context."

Questioned about leaks to the news media, Gates told the Senate Intelligence Committee that he thought they resulted from a "lack of discipline" by people with access to sensitive information.

In the case of large-scale paramilitary activities, it is difficult to keep American involvement secret, he admitted.

But, Gates told the committee, even when a program becomes widely known, official involvement can still be denied and that provides "a fig leaf" for the United States in international circles.

Gates threw himself into the job of deputy director at the agency, pushing improved communications methods and looking ahead to the needs of coming years, reports John Ranelagh in his book "The Agency: The Rise and Decline of the CIA."